Program of

The Chimes Concerts

in connection with the

Dedication of the Mead Memorial Chapel

of Middlebury College

June 17-21, 1916

The Gift of the Chime

During the construction of the Mead Memorial Chapel, the donor, ex-Governor John A. Mead, of the Class of '64, suggested to the Building Committee that he and Mrs. Mead had thought of providing a chime of bells for the chapel. The suggestion was heartily approved. It was felt that a chime would add greatly to the influence of the chapel, not only upon the college, but upon the community. The location on a commanding height, in a quiet valley, was believed to be especially favorable for a chime, and the high tower was found to be well adapted to the purpose. Accordingly the generous donors decided to make the gift, and a letter announcing this purpose was read at the Commencement of 1915.

The Selection of the Founders

After correspondence with many churches and institutions where chimes had been installed, and visits to several foundries, the Committee decided to place the order for the chime with Meneely & Co., Watervliet, N. Y. It was learned later that the old chapel bell, which has served the college since 1836, was cast in the same foundry. The name of the grandfather of Mr. Andrew H. Meneely, head of the present firm, is upon the old bell.

Description of the Chime

The bells are in the key of E by the founders' imported instruments in concert pitch thus:

E – F sharp – G sharp - A – A sharp – B – C sharp – D – D sharp – E – F sharp

This chime of bells has a wide range in playing capacity; in fact, the number of tunes that can be played upon this set of bells is practically unlimited, as there are thousands of tunes within its compass.

These bells are doubly attuned so that the same fullness, tone-richness, and brilliancy obtain throughout the entire set. If anything should occur to injure any of the bells, new ones can be promptly made by the founders to accurately replace them without making any test of the other bells in the tower.

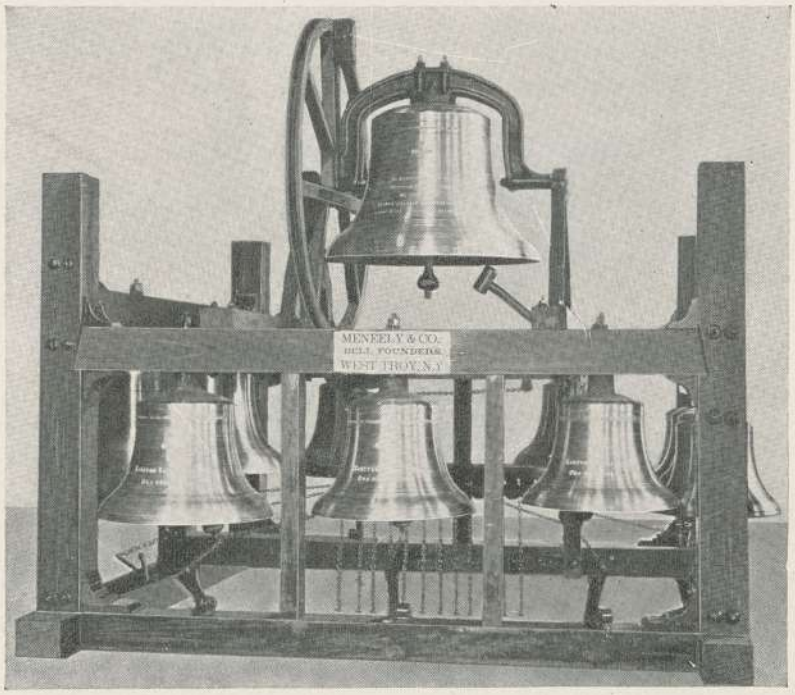
The total net weight of the bells alone is 10,531 pounds, and with the frame, mountings, and complete appliances will aggregate nearly 15,000 pounds.

Inscriptions

Each bell of the chime has the following inscriptions :

PRESENTED TO MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BY
JOHN ABNER AND MARY SHERMAN MEAD
A. D. 1915

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand ;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



HOW THE CHIMES ARE ERECTED

The illustration above shows how this chime is mounted. It was found necessary to make a specially constructed frame, according to the size and features of the tower.

HOW THE CHIMES ARE PLAYED

The chimes are played from a console located in the tower above the gallery, some twenty feet below the bells. The connections from the console to the bells are straight grain wooden rods, tested to stand 1,500 pounds lift. The console has eleven levers corresponding to and named as the bells. The method of playing is a more or less vigorous stroke, not a mere push. The lever end is grasped firmly with the hand. After some practice the knack is easily acquired and becomes a pleasurable exercise. It does not require the application of any more power than enough to make a fairly vigorous stroke, when the note will sound out clear and rich from the belfry with the same prompt response as from a piano.

Programs of Commencement Concerts

MR. ERNEST A. MENEELY, CHIMER

Saturday, June 17

7 :30–8 :00 P. M.

Changes on Eight Bells
Doxology
There's Music in the Air
Hark, Hark, my Soul
Holy, Holy, Holy
O, How I Love the College on the Hill
Ein' Feste Burg

Sunday, June 18

3 :30–4 :00 P. M.

Coronation
Lead, Kindly Light

Adeste Fideles
Italian Hymn
Nearer, my God, to Thee
Jesus, Lover of my Soul
Running the scale three times and ending with three strokes on the largest bell

Monday, June 19

The chimes will be rung for the chapel service at 8 :45 A. M.

2 :30–3 :00 P. M.
Changes on Six Bells
Blue Bells of Scotland
Juanita
Robin Adair
Champlain (U. V. M. Song)
March Down the Field (Middlebury Song)
America

Tuesday, June 20

The chimes will be rung for the chapel service at 8 :45 A. M.

10 :00 A. M. Popular Concert.
Westminster Chime Quarters
Ring Out, Wild Bells
Flow Gently, Sweet Afton
Suwanee River
Columbia, Gem of the Ocean
Stars of the Summer Night
The Bridal March (Lohengrin)
The Chimes of Trinity
My Old Kentucky Home
Old Black Joe
Hail, Middlebury
All Thro' the Night
Marching Through Georgia
Wearin' o' the Green
Home, Sweet Home
America
The chimes will be rung preceding each of the performances of the Ben Greet Woodland Players at 3 :00 and 8 :00 P. M.

Wednesday, June 21

The chimes will be rung before the chapel service at 8 :45 A. M.

5 :00 P. M. Farewell Concert.
The Chimes of Trinity
Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond
March of the Men of Harlech
Abide with Me
The Holy City
O, How I Love the College on the Hill
Auld Lang Syne
Home, Sweet Home